

# DAILY BULLETIN

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## UNITED STATES TO STUDY U.N. REPORT AS RICE PLANS MIDEAST TRIP

U.N.'s Annan sees "serious obstacles" to truce, proposes conflict resolution plan

By Judy Aita  
Washington File UN Correspondent

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton said July 20 that the United States will consider fully the suggestions of U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the July 20 report of the U.N. special mission to the Middle East as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice prepares for a trip to the region that could occur as early as the week of July 24.

To the extent Annan's proposals are consistent with the statement of the leaders of the 2006 Group of Eight (G8) Summit, they could form a basis on which to proceed, he said.

Annan on July 20 called for an immediate end to the fighting in Lebanon to prevent further loss of life, give diplomacy a chance and get aid to those in need, but he acknowledged that getting a full cease-fire is "difficult to achieve at this time."

Accompanied by the three-person special mission he sent to the region July 13, Annan told the Security Council that "the mission's assessment is that there are serious obstacles to reaching a cease-fire or even to diminishing the violence quickly."

"Most people in the region rightly reject a simple return to the status quo ante, since any truce based on such a limited outcome could not be expected to last," the secretary-general said.

Bolton said, "What we seek is long-term cessation of hostilities that is part of a comprehensive change in the region and a part of a real foundation for peace."

"It is just not appropriate to talk about a cease-fire as if that is the alpha and the omega of the situation. In fact, since -- as the secretary-general himself said -- we want to have a fundamental transformation, the last thing you want to do is fall back into business as usual," he said.

Bolton added, "No one has explained how you conduct a cease-fire with a group of terrorists."

He said that the United States is "looking for a solution that will fundamentally change the reality in the region and spare the peoples of Israel and Lebanon, in particular, from the threat of terrorism."

"That means there is an important sequence of events here; there are important political preconditions," Bolton said.

Annan said that all elements of his plan must be implemented in parallel. They are: return of the kidnapped Israeli soldiers; a cease-fire; a large peacekeeping force to stabilize the situation and strengthen the Lebanese army; Lebanese respect of the Blue Line (the demarcation line between Israel and Lebanon drawn by the United Nations); international aid for Lebanon's reconstruction and development; and international guarantees for the agreement.

The critical element of the plan is the return of the kidnapped Israeli soldiers, Bolton said. "Hizballah has to give these kidnap victims up. That is an absolute precondition."

The secretary-general blamed Hizballah for triggering the crisis and condemned its "reckless disregard for the wishes" of the Lebanese government and the interests of the Lebanese people and the region.

"Hizballah's actions, which it portrays as defending Palestine and Lebanese interests, in fact, do neither," Annan said. "On the contrary, they hold an entire nation hostage, set back prospects for negotiation of a comprehensive Middle East peace."

Emphasizing that Israel has the right to defend itself, the secretary-general nevertheless said Israel should make a greater effort to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure. "Whatever damage Israel's operation may be doing to Hizballah's military capabilities, they are doing little or nothing to decrease popular support of Hizballah in Lebanon or the region, but are doing a great deal to weaken the government of Lebanon," he said.

The government of Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora, he said, "deserves, and must receive, all possible support from the international community."

Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Dan Gillerman said that the secretary-general failed to mention "the three key elements of this crisis -- terror, Iran and Syria." "Terror is the root cause of what is happening in Lebanon," Gillerman said. Iran is the main perpetrator, harbinger, financier and initiator of terror with Hizballah its proxy, he added.

Syria, he pointed out, would not allow the secretary-general's mission into the country.

Annan also reported that about 500,000 civilians have been affected by the conflict so far, but that number could increase.

He said conditions for peacekeeping clearly do not exist and the Security Council will have to decide what to do with the 2,000-strong U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), whose mandate expires July 31.

Rice and European Union High Commissioner Javier Solana were scheduled to meet with Annan later in the day July 20.

## SYRIA BLOCKS U.N. EFFORTS TO END LEBANON CRISIS, U.S. ENVOY SAYS

Syria refuses to meet with U.N. special envoy

By Judy Aita  
Washington File United Nations Correspondent

United Nations -- Syria is becoming a serious stumbling block in international diplomatic efforts to end the fighting in Lebanon, U.S. officials say.

In the U.N. Security Council July 20, Secretary-General Kofi Annan outlined his plan for a wide-ranging settlement and reported on the efforts of the three-person mission, led by Vijay Nambiar, that he sent to the region July 13 as the fighting intensified. However, Syria's refusal to receive one of the secretary-general's envoys -- experienced diplomat Terje Roed-Larsen -- cast a shadow over the meeting.

Roed-Larsen is the secretary-general's special representative on Resolution 1559, passed by the council in September 2004 calling for "the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias."

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton said Syria's rejection of the U.N. mission "in effect applies to all of our collective efforts to get an international solution" to the crisis in Lebanon.

"We know the root cause of the present conflict is Hizballah's terrorists acts supported by Iran and Syria, but now, I think, we see more clearly the role Syria has and has been playing in frustrating efforts to bring this to a resolution," Bolton said.

During a closed-door meeting with the 15-nation Security Council, Annan emphasized that he would assert his right to select whomever he felt was qualified for such missions. However, the United Nations did not press the point with Syria because the team was needed back in New York to brief the council, he said. Other U.N. officials point out that the United Nations has other means of approaching Syria, as well as Iran, another backer of Hizballah.

It was reasonable to have the Nambiar mission at U.N. headquarters for the Security Council meeting, Bolton said, "but I don't see how the council can be fully informed or the U.N. can play a full role if a major party to the conflict -- Syria -- just isn't even interested in talking."

The action raises "a more profound question of how one gets Syrian involvement and commitment . . . to a solution if they don't talk to the representatives of the secretary-general," he said.

Bolton said that in the absence of a meeting between the Nambiar team and the Syrian government, it is difficult to get a complete picture of to what Syria would agree, including how Damascus is going to terminate its support for Hizballah terrorist activities.

"I don't think there's any question but that Syria, along with Iran is a principle supporter of Hizballah. It has rejected many critical elements of Resolution 1559 and now we find that it has not indicated even a willingness to even speak with the secretary-general's mission," Bolton continued.

The Nambiar mission "has to have access to all governments involved or the secretary-general's role will be severely limited," he said.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said that Syria, as well as Iran, stood apart from the rest of the region by not condemning the Hizballah attacks that started the crisis. "States in the region condemned this attack, Syria and Iran didn't. So they are outside that consensus in the region," McCormack said. They have isolated themselves "through their actions, through their support for Hizballah, through support for Hamas."

#### NEW U.S.-RUSSIAN INITIATIVE AIMS TO THWART NUCLEAR TERRORISM

Plan is to increase network of partners committed to broad, adaptive defenses

By Jacquelyn S. Porth  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Every nation faces unique challenges in trying to thwart nuclear terrorism, which is today's most urgent security challenge, says a senior State Department nonproliferation expert.

Acting Assistant Secretary of State Francis Record told a House International Relations subcommittee July 20 that the U.S.-Russian Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism announced by U.S. President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin July 15 in St. Petersburg, Russia, is designed to bring global partners together "to confront and defeat this threat."

He said the initiative's main objective "is to establish a growing network of partner nations that are committed to taking effective measures to build a layered defense-in-depth that can continuously adapt to the changing nature of the threat."

Collaborative efforts to develop better security technologies can help advance nonproliferation goals and the overall U.S. strategy to combat nuclear terrorism, Record said. Biometric access controls for sensitive materials, remote monitoring of facilities and personnel, and systems and software connected to rapid-response law enforcement units also can help, he said.

One challenge facing the new initiative is to bring together detection efforts with instantaneous communications technologies and wireless networks on land, sea and air, said the acting assistant secretary with the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation. It also is important to ensure interoperability between U.S. detection systems and those of its partners "to provide accurate early warning and improve the mutual situational awareness regarding potential threats that may require emergency responses," Record said.

#### COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION AND PSI

The initiative builds on the 1992 Cooperative Threat Reduction program and the ongoing Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) first proposed by President Bush in 2003.

Record said \$52 million would be spent in fiscal year 2006 to retrain scientists in Libya, Eurasia and Iraq who once worked on weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs. He said the State Department also is funding programs to convert Russian bioweapons factories to animal-feed plants.

Meanwhile endorsement of the PSI Statement of Principles merely commits a nation politically "to stop proliferation-related shipments whenever possible," Record said. Seventy-five nations currently support the informal, voluntary PSI "and we're working hard to increase that number," he added.

Record also emphasized the importance of rethinking the role of the private sector in pursuing nonproliferation strategies and reducing the risk of terrorists acquiring unconventional weapons. "We must make clear to the private sector the common interest we share in keeping their assets and infrastructure free from either direct attack or from exploitation by terrorist actors seeking to acquire or use nuclear or radiological materials," he added.

The acting assistant secretary said initiatives such as the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership can help reduce nuclear terrorism risks "while opening up new avenues for peaceful use of nuclear energy."

#### SUDANESE LEADER CONFERS WITH BUSH, RICE ON PEACE AGREEMENT

Bush reaffirms U.S. commitment to peace in Sudan, help for Darfur

By Rachel J. King  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- President Bush met July 20 with a leader of Sudan's new national unity government to discuss how the United States can help Sudan build on the political progress and extend the benefits of peace throughout the war-torn country.

"The United States is committed to helping the Sudanese people; we're committed to making sure that the peace agreement that we helped you negotiate is implemented," Bush said during a joint press availability at the White House with Salva Kiir, first vice president of the Government of National Unity of Sudan and president of Southern Sudan.

The president also noted that the United States is committed to aiding the people in Sudan's western region of Darfur and said the two leaders strategized about what should be done in the area. "The United Nations should be invited in," the president said. "We talked about how best to get that done in order to save lives. Obviously, there is still a lot of work to be done."

Kiir said the United States had helped negotiate the peace agreement in Sudan and that although the process "has taken a toll" on the Sudanese people, "this dream has been achieved, and we are now together in the implementation."

He urged a continued focus on "so many other crises in Sudan" that need international attention as well.

"We are sure that we are going to solve the problem so that we don't hear about rapes and killings in Darfur," he said. "And all other parts of our country, like Eastern Sudan -- we are now also negotiating in that province so that peace is also achieved all over the Sudan."

#### COMPREHENSIVE PEACE AGREEMENT

Meeting with the Sudanese leader later in the day, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice underlined the U.S. commitment to a "free and prosperous and democratic Sudan."

“We were pleased to play a role in the conclusion of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement for the people of Sudan that ended a very long civil war between North and South, and we are now committed to ending the violence in Darfur so that Sudan can be whole and at peace,” Rice said.

Kiir expressed his appreciation for having been invited to Washington to have discussions with the president, which he said included “the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement bringing peace to Darfur, to eastern Sudan, and making and transforming the country into a democratic, multiparty nation, which of course has been our goal for a very, very long time and we are committed to this.”

#### U.S. HELP FOR DARFUR

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer announced a U.S. commitment of \$116 million to the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) at the Sudan donors’ conference in Brussels on July 18, reaffirming that a successful resolution to the situation in Darfur is one of the Bush administration’s highest priorities.

That commitment of \$116 million in assistance to AMIS through the end of September 2006 was the largest new pledge of support made at the Brussels donors conference and was in addition to \$247 million in U.S. contributions to AMIS since 2004.

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**Plases Note:** Most texts and transcript mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage: <http://geneva.usmission.gov/>

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